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clear. But there are places where certain finer shades of meaning in the original are not reproduced in the translation. These, of course, are the passages wherein Pfeffer's personality and suggestiveness of mind are hinted at by form of statement, and it thus comes about that the English volume contains somewhat less of Pfeffer and more of Ewart, albeit its physiology is more concisely put than in the German edition. Also, while the entire omission in the translation of the author's numerous parenthetical cross references to other sections of the same work makes the text more readable, it cannot but be regretted that the volume has thus been robbed of one of the most characteristic and valuable features which the original possessed for research workers. For the latter class of English readers the German edition will still be in demand, though no place where physiology is studied can afford to be without the translation.

In form, typography, etc., this volume follows the previous English volume and leaves nothing to be desired. The footnotes which cite the literature are usually merely translated, and have all the good and bad qualities of those of the original.—B. E. LIVINGSTON.

Plant geography.

THE appearance of the English edition of Schimper's great masterpiece⁴ has been long awaited with impatience by all English and American botanists. During the latter part of 1903 the Clarendon Press issued the translation in instalments, and the completed work has been recently distributed. Every ecologist—one wishes he might say every botanist—has a well-thumbed copy of the original German edition upon his desk, and it has been one of the reference books most consulted during the past five years. Perhaps to such the appearance of a translation is too late to be of the greatest service. But to the reading public and to the students of botany in high schools, colleges, and universities the translation makes readily accessible this indispensable work. There can no longer be any reason for omitting ecological work from the higher botanical curricula.

The translation was prepared by W. R. Fisher, under the efficient supervision of Groom and Balfour. An excellent photogravure portrait of Schimper forms the frontispiece. This is a particularly welcome addition, since it has been very difficult to secure satisfactory portraits of the great ecologist. Another addition in the English edition is a sympathetic appreciation of Schimper, written by Groom.

One cannot praise too highly the laborious faithfulness to the original, which is shown in the translation. No unfortunate attempts are made to

⁴SCHIMPER, A. F. W., *Plant geography upon a physiological basis*. Authorized English translation by WILLIAM R. FISHER; revised and edited by PERCY GROOM and ISAAC BAYLEY BALFOUR. With a photogravure portrait, five collotypes, four maps, and four hundred and ninety-seven other illustrations. Imp. 8vo. pp. xxx + 839. Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1903. *Ss.* 42.

improve upon Schimper's thought or diction; very few liberties indeed are taken. In isolated cases the text might be clearer to American readers, if other renderings were used. For example, it may be doubted if *guild* is the best equivalent of *Genossenschaft*, or *elfin-tree* of *Krummholz*. The reviewer sees no objection to retaining the word *Krummholz* in English until an equivalent appears.

The presswork is admirable; even the illustrations seem to be quite equal to those of the original. Both the original and the translation are large and bulky volumes, and it would seem that the advantages of a two-volume edition would more than outweigh the obvious disadvantages. We hope and expect that the belief of Groom and Balfour, stated in the preface, will be realized, viz., that this work will have as great an influence upon current botanical movements as was exerted by the translation of Sachs's *Text-book of Botany* thirty years ago.—HENRY C. COWLES.

Paleobotany.

The modern morphologist is always anxious to secure some definite information concerning paleobotanical material and welcomes every new publication that promises to be helpful. Flahault⁵ has just published a résumé of certain paleobotanical conferences he has been in the habit of holding with students at Montpellier, as a preliminary to work with living plants. It is really a brief and simple account of our knowledge of fossil plants and of their relation to modern vegetation. The curious autolithographic preparation of the book, including illustrations, gives to it almost the flavor of a long personal letter. The seven chapters deal with the following subjects: (I) Introductory remarks; (II) Thallophytes; (III) Bryophytes, Characeae, Pteridophytes, and groups of doubtful affinity; (IV) Phanerogamic plants—Gymnosperms; (V) Angiosperms; (VI) Differentiation of climates; successive constitution of floras; (VII) General results and conclusions.

The book will doubtless be of great service in many laboratories where a brief and clear account of the paleobotanical evidence is much needed.—J. M. C.

MINOR NOTICES.

DR. JANET PERKINS⁶ has begun a series of publications devoted to the investigation of the flora of the Philippine Islands. The author's work is based upon the old and new collections belonging to the Berlin Museum, and other collections that the Museum has been able to call in; and she has also secured special monographers as collaborators. The first fascicle is chiefly

⁵FLAHAULT, CH., La paléobotanique dans ses rapports avec la végétation actuelle. Autolithograph, pp. 217. Paris: Paul Klincksieck, 3 rue Corneille. fr. 7.50.

⁶PERKINS, JANET, Fragmenta florae Philippinae. Contributions to the flora of the Philippine Islands. Fasciculus I. pp. 1-66. Leipzig: Gebrüder Borntraeger. 1904. M 4.